

'No difference if PAS fielded more women'

STAR 26 AUG 2003

BY SIMON KHOO

SEREMBAN: PAS can choose to field more women as candidates for the general election but they are not likely to make much impact or difference, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said.

"That is up to them (PAS). They can field whomever they want. We are the least bothered by their action.

"They can even field a deadwood. We will fight them all the way," she said when met after attending a closed-door gathering of state Wanita Umno leaders at the Seremban International Golf Club yesterday.

She was asked to comment on the

possibility of PAS fielding more women candidates in the general election in an effort to garner more votes.

Rafidah said that on the movement's part, it had no problems squaring off with PAS, adding that it was confident of beating its opponents.

On the meeting, Rafidah said they had discussed the state's preparations for the general election and its machinery.

"So far, I am happy with their work and preparations. Everything is strictly work-related and nothing to do with candidacy matters," she said.

Rafidah reiterated that the Barisan Nasional formula of power sharing among its component parties had proven to be successful.

She said it was evident that in a multi-racial country like Malaysia, the Barisan formula was the only way to ensure continuous development.

"This is different from the PAS-adopted concept of marriage of convenience or contract engagement just for the sake of winning the elections," she said.

On Saturday, while opening the 32nd Gerakan national delegates conference, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that the Barisan formula had worked for Malaysia because the coalition was in existence before entering a general election.

However, he said if a coalition was to be set up for the sake of forming a government, then it would be a weak one.